

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

PO Box 68 Valley Center, CA 92082 ♦ (760) 749-1051 ♦ Fax: (760) 749-8901



October 3, 2011

USEPA Communities and Ecosystems Department
75 Hawthorne
San Francisco, CA

Dear Enrique Manzanilla,

I was referred to you by Hillary Hecht in regards to an environmental issue that has occurred in the Rincon Indian Reservation. I have enclosed a Phase I Environmental Assessment performed on the Former Rincon Mushroom Farm APN 133-180-020, 33777 Valley Center Road, Valley Center, San Diego County. The assessment was performed for the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians on August 4, 2011.

The assessment was completed to determine whether the groundwater has been threatened by the activities of the Former Mushroom Farm. In the assessment you will find the recommendations from the Environmental Consultant Applied Engineering and Geology, Inc. This parcel of land has held many activities that could compromise the groundwater, if you look in the assessment at Figure 5, you will see 30 areas of concern located on the 5 acre lot.

I am contacting you to request assistance from the USEPA to look into the activities and areas of concern located on this property. If you research the records in your agency you will find that other USEPA agents have visited this site on a couple of separate occasions. In 2008, agents visited after the 2007 wildfire which burnt numerous oil drums, vehicles and other unidentifiable substances. In 2005, USEPA visited the site and had a concern with the septic system and injection well. This site has been a concern to the tribe for over 10 years now and they would like your department to be aware of this parcel that could potentially affect the groundwater of the Rincon community. The groundwater is located in a basin in the San Luis Rey Watershed and is the sole water source for this community.

I appreciate your time in this urgent matter and look forward to hearing from you. Please contact the office at 760.297.2632.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Wolfe
Environmental Department Manager

Bo Mazzetti
Chairman

Stephanie Spencer
Vice-Chairwoman

Charlie Kolb
Council Member

Steve Stallings
Council Member

Laurie E. Gonzalez
Council Member